

Grafham Gossip

Issue 42 Deadline: *Midnight Thursday 13th December*



Editors' note...

The next *Grafham Gossip* will be delivered after the schools go back in January. We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Five Parish Advent Fair

8th December, Grafham Village Hall, 1 - 4pm

The Parishes of Grafham, Ellington, Easton, Spaldwick, Barham and Woolley are again holding their **Advent Fair** in **Grafham Village Hall** on **8th December** from **1.00- 4.00pm**. Please think of anything you can do to help. Can you make items for the craft stall or provide materials for someone else to do so? Could you find bottles for the bottle stall, large or small, or provide raffle prizes? Can you make pickles, chutneys, jams or freeze items for the cake stall in advance? Can you look out gifts and presents, toys and white elephant treasures? Could you organise a game or competition? We would welcome any new ideas and more offers of help to **Sue on 455080**. Main collection point from now can be **The Rectory, 1 Parson's Drive, Ellington** or contact the individual stallholders below.



Ploughman's Lunches, mulled wine	Pat/ Alan	811166
Teas	Romi	890287
Cake stall.....	Val	812390
Honey, pickles, chutneys and jams...	Peter	891043
Gifts and Presents.....	Sarah	891496
Craft stall.....	Jill	810157
Treasures and white elephant.....	Doreen	891452
Toys.....	Amba	890565
Bottle stall.....	Jonathan	891695
Raffle.....	Marian	890561
Children's tombola.....	Sylvie	891964



LIVE MUSIC

December 15th

Grafham Village Hall

See page 5 for more details

Grafham All Saints - Services

- 2nd December (1st Sunday) - 11.00 - All Age Worship
The Holy Family 'Posada' begins its journey.
- 9th December (2nd Sunday) - 11.00 - Eucharist
- 16th December (3rd Sunday) - 11.00 - Family Worship
- 23rd December (4th Sunday) - 16.30 - Carol Service
- 24th December (Christmas Eve) - 16.00 - Crib Service
- 25th December (Christmas Day) - 11.00 - Christmas Day
Service with Holy Communion
- 30th December (5th Sunday) - 11.00 Five Parish Group
Eucharist at Spaldwick
- 6th January 2008 (1st Sunday) - 11.00 - All Age Worship

First-timers and visitors very welcome

Contacting the Clergy: **Fr Jonathan Young** (rector), The Rectory, Ellington PE28 0AU Tel. 01480 891695. **Fr Martin Kettle** (curate), The Vicarage, Alconbury PE28 4DX tel. 01480 890284 or mob. 07876 755587. **Churchwardens:** Jill Dighton 01480 811862 Jill Tyack 01480 810157

All Saints Church Grafham 2nd December at 11.00 am

The Holy Family Travelling Crib scene begins its journey around the village.

If you would like to host the crib scene overnight, please come along to this service and add your name to the list. Hear all about the Posada tradition.



The travelling crib set contains all the figures to create a nativity scene in your own home - for one night - as well as story books, quizzes and games. Then simply put the set back in its box and hand on to the next person/host on the list!

AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS CHEER SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL 7.30 FOR 7.45 START

Please support the first fund-raising event run by the Save All Saints campaign (the re-formed **Friends of Grafham Church**). This is a chance to meet your fellow-villagers in a Christmassy atmosphere whilst enjoying a fun evening of wine-tasting with cheese and carol-singing. The fun will be led by a local wine taster. If you enjoy the wines, you can also buy them by the bottle. Later we shall gather round the Christmas to sing favourite carols with keyboard accompaniment. **Tickets £5** from:



Karen Stewart 810961 Keith Chisholm 810694
Jane Stewart 810841 Keith Gowen 810995
Tina Theodorou 811366 Lynda/Robin Yeomans 812440
 Plus a raffle with fantastic prizes
All profits towards the Save All Saints building repairs fund.



PARISH NEWS...

Parish News previously reported that the Parish Council had been in contact with the Highways Division concerning a request that the speed limit on Buckden Road past the village boundary be reduced from 60mph to 50mph. A letter from Highways indicates that this is highly unlikely to occur and certainly not before 2011. This will be disappointing to those people living on the affected stretch of road. However, the hazards can be avoided if the 60mph limit is observed. Almost everyone in the village is concerned about the speed of through traffic, but the potential for tragedy is just as great on the roads out of the village.



As part of the Council's focus on through traffic, there has been some correspondence with the District Council concerning the shape of the junction at Brampton and Buckden Roads. Several people have said that vehicles sweeping round this junction from Breach Road come quite fast and very close to the footpath. This can be quite scary if you are waiting to cross the road and the vehicle is large. The junction should have been reshaped thus forcing traffic to slow down considerably in order to get round it and this reshaping was a condition of a past planning application. It obviously did not happen and is now being followed up by the District Council. We hope to have further information in time for the next PC meeting.

A member of the SAS (Save All Saints) group spoke to the PC at its last meeting to seek support for its aims and practical aid where possible. The Council is fully supportive of the aims of the group and has agreed to give full consideration to all requests for help.

A further £350 has been received from the District Council for the recycling bins. Please keep using them, they are providing much needed funds for the village hall.

Margaret Life, Clerk to the PC

Full minutes on the web site Next meeting: Tuesday 11th December

You may contact your parish councillors through the clerk or directly using the details below.

Margaret Life Clerk to the Parish Council 01480 819477 margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk

Philip Allingham Chairman 01480 811516 allinghams@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk

Mike Tyler Vice Chair 01480 811244 mtyler@bedford.gov.uk **Gillian Findlay** 01480 812255 gillfindlay@btconnect.com

Ian Gardener 01480 812821 ig@ascgeomatics.co.uk **Katrina Goodwin** 01480 810297 goodwinkatrina@hotmail.com

Dan Hart 01480 819086 dchart.hart@btinternet.com



Grafham Cricket Club

Friday October 19th 2007 saw Grafham Cricket Club at the Race Horse Country Inn and Restaurant at Catworth enjoying our annual cricket dinner. The number of club members who attended the dinner was down on last year, but the company was friendly; the food delicious; the beer cool; and the speeches were not too long.

The following Club members won awards:

BEST BATSMAN:- Adrian Love who was genuinely surprised to win this award, but Adi's batting in the tail, often lifted the team's scores in several matches, that often gave Grafham a chance of winning the game.

BEST BOWLER:- John Fozzard whose figures speak for themselves; 20 wickets; a wicket taken on average every 12 runs, a wicket taken on average every 21 balls, runs scored against on average 3.4 runs per over. Well done John!

BEST FIELDER(s) was a tie between Ian Dickson and Tom Chester

Ian is the team's wicket keeper, and by standing up to the wicket to most of the team's bowling was able to put pressure on the opposition batsman, causing them to make mistakes, and less willing to take risks. Ian also took some amazing catches.

Tom also earned his award by regularly taking difficult catches out in the field, and on one occasion took a difficult half chance of a catch against the Aryan Afghans at Mowsbury Park which helped turn the game in our favour. Although Tom did not win the bowling award he is quite rightly proud of his 3 wickets for 25 against St Andrews in the final match of the season.

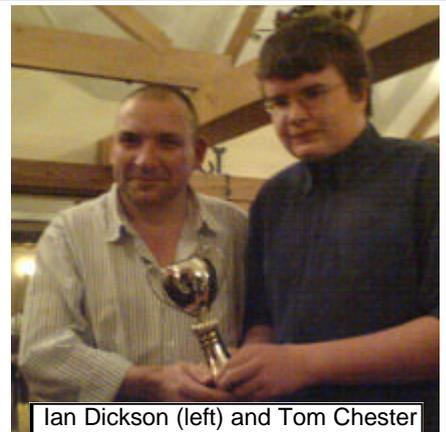
MOST IMPROVED PLAYER:- Ben Dickson who chased John Fozzard hard for the bowling award by taking 17 wickets at an average of 4.1 runs per over, and for a not out score of 38 against the Aryan Afghans at Grafham when the team was in trouble. Ben has been a consistent performer for Grafham throughout the season, and thoroughly deserves the award.

PLAYER'S PLAYER:- went to John Fozzard who for a moment at the time of the announcement was unbelievably speechless. This award was in recognition by the team of John's efforts throughout the season, and well deserved.

CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR: Chris Dighton who still cannot quite believe it.

So after the dinner was completed it signified another season was over: who knows where the time goes?

Chris Dighton Club Chairman



Ian Dickson (left) and Tom Chester



View from the Pew!

On 21st October, we were with Mary and Philip on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Many congratulations and blessings to you both!



Our service on the 4th November certainly went with a swing! If you were not able to join us in the pews, you more than likely heard the music emanating from the church! What a treat! Thanks so much to Paul on guitar, Peter on saxophone and our vicar Jonathan on keyboard! Be in no doubt - no-one could have slept through our service that day and it doesn't appear to have had a detrimental effect on the crack either! We hope that our musicians will reconvene very soon.

It was good to be with so many people on Remembrance Sunday as we gathered to pay our respects to those killed in conflict. We heard the words of an army Padre, written after he returned from a tour of duty in Iraq. His thoughts on what he had witnessed and the courage he displayed certainly gave us all plenty to think about.

In next month's *Grafham Gossip*, we hope to have a write-up on the Lights to Remember Service (18th November) and the Family Service on 2nd December when the 'Posada' left for its journey around the village.

We look forward to welcoming you all to our ever-popular **Carol Service on 23rd December at 4.30pm** and also at the **Crib Service on 24th December at 4pm**. At this service, the 'Posada' Travelling Holy Family set will return into church.

Please remember that from now until Christmas Eve you will be able to buy Fair Trade produce in church after services. There are Christmas cards, sweets, tea, coffee and lovely gifts (especially jewellery) on sale.

And don't forget to invite your family and friends along to the traditional **Christmas Day Service at 11am**. It's what Christmas is really all about!

In the meantime, see you at the Advent Fair - **Saturday 8th December - Village Hall - 1 to 4pm**.

Don't be late - the bargains will soon go!

'The Clergy, Churchwardens, PCC and all the congregation of Grafham All Saints would like to wish you all a joyous, peaceful and blessed Christmas and New Year. See you in the pews in 2008!'



Children's New Years Eve party from 1 till 3 pm

With the popular entertainer Mr Marvell (aimed at under 8 years)

£5 per child to cover entertainment costs

Tickets are required and available from either

Tracie Lord - 2 the Wyvern
Email tracielorduk@aol.com

Julie Turner - 8 The Wyvern

Email julie@luxuryholidaysabroad.co.uk

Infants under 2 and half are free yet still require a ticket (for numbers)



Parental supervision is required

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

No reported incidents in the village for the last month - good news indeed.

The DVLA report a scam with the selling of second hand vehicles - the registration document carries the prefix BG in the right hand corner. Further information is available from www.direct.gov.uk/motoring

In neighbouring villages there has been a spate of hand-bag thefts/dipping from a group of females and also the following has been reported:

Yaxley - break-ins to cars causing damage and resulting in theft, 13 in the month

St Neots - 22 incidents in the month

Little Paxton - 3 house burglaries

Offord Cluny - 1 house break-in

Buckden - 2 thefts, car and house

Police are advising for us all to be aware and vigilant given the proximity of the above events.

The Parish Council are investigating the withdrawal of the community support officers and either they or I will report back when further information is obtained.

Police Control room: **0845 4564564**

Minicom helpline for the deaf and hard of hearing:

01480 422493

Crimestoppers : **0800 555111** (anonymous reporting)

All emergencies: **999**

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

James Snell 07951 069565 e-mail jamie2701@aol.com



The Mobile Library (route H103) visits **Breach Rd, Grafham** on **alternate Wednesdays from 11.35 to 11.55**. Visits this month are: **December 12th, no visit on December 26th as it is a holiday**. Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**
<http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>



The Royal Mail ended Sunday postal collections at the end of October in an effort to improve efficiency.



Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)



Buckden surgery has been redecorated, new lighting installed and a new carpet laid. As widely advertised, we held an evening of Presentations on 10th October, to give advice and information about equipment available to enable people to remain at home safely and independently and techniques to minimize the risk of falling. There was also a talk on Acupuncture and another about the Hospice at Home for those needing palliative care. It was an extremely informative evening, filled with practical advice and with demonstrations of an amazing range of aids to use in the home, from the simple to the very sophisticated. It was a most enjoyable and successful event and my only regret was that more people were not able to benefit from it!



Patients who were unable to attend the flu jab session on Saturday 13th October are encouraged to make an alternative appointment with the Practice Nurse.

On the broader scale, problems in our PCT continue to have a significant and worrying impact at surgery level, specifically the District Nursing Service is in crisis at the moment. The District Nurses are employed by the PCT and not the Surgery but have a significant impact on the running of the practice. Two nurses have been lost in the past 18 months and it has not been possible to replace them, and this has imposed an unacceptable burden on the remaining staff. At the request of the PCT, the District Nurses conducted an in-depth, time consuming audit to validate the need for replacements but to date no funding has been made available despite urgent representations made by Dr Irwin. We have heard more favorable responses from the PCT but we wait to see the promised nurses in post first.

This problem has to be set in the wider context of the Government's determination to discharge hospital patients very much sooner while still needing a high level of medical and nursing support. Additionally, Hinchingsbrooke are wanting to off-load many more services from the hospital without ensuring local surgeries have the capacity to fulfil these additional obligations. There is a complete lack of clarity and cohesion about the way in which the Government's aspirations are to be achieved.

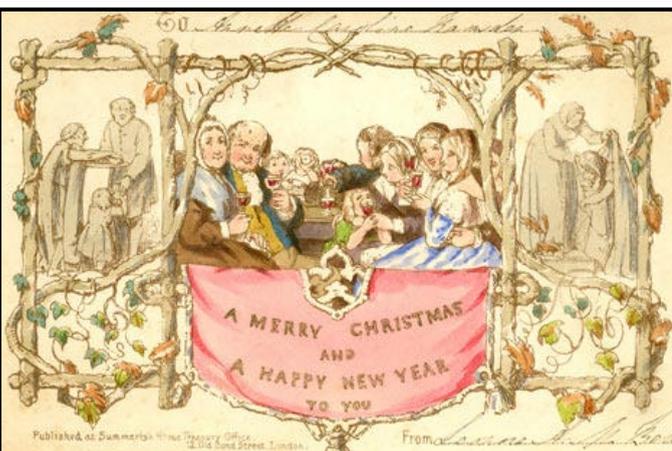
My concern remains the practical problems surrounding the delivery of safe and comprehensive care in the community without first addressing the issues of staff and funding levels, especially in an area that has a District General Hospital that wants - or is forced - to become more community based.

Blood tests for those on Wafarin are to move into the community from Hinchingsbrooke soon. New clinics being established for people from the Buckden and Little Paxton surgeries will be at the Cedar House and Dumbelton Medical Centre in St Neots (near Tesco).

Having three years ago conducted lengthy negotiations with GPs representatives prior to issuing the new contracts, the Government has now decided it has misjudged the amount of work GPs did above and beyond their obligations and also misjudged cost that would ensue as a result of GPs opting-out of evening and weekend work. So we have yet another 'initiative' to impose changes to GPs surgery hours with the Government wanting them to open in the evenings and weekends with the threat that those practices refusing to comply will receive a smaller slice of NHS funding. This appears to me to be insulting to hard-working overstretched doctors who are already facing increasing financial overheads and commitments with no commensurate funding. GPs have had no increase in their funding for the past 2 years despite inflation and there is no indication as to where money is to come from to cover staff support during the proposed extended hours. What does the NHS do with its budget, why does it constantly feel the overwhelming need to interfere and de-motivate staff?

Sue Paul BSPA

For original article and more information see www.bandlp.co.uk



The First Christmas Card

This image is of the world's first commercial Christmas card. It was commissioned by Henry Cole in 1843, the same year Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol.

Henry Cole was a lifelong civil servant with a great interest in art and design. He worked under Rowland Hill between 1837 and 1840 as they worked to introduce the universal Penny Postage and the first postage stamp, the Penny Black. Cole later played a key role in organising the Great Exhibition of 1851.

1,000 of these Christmas cards were printed, and Cole used as many as he required before selling the rest for 6d (sixpence) each. This price made them a luxury item, unavailable to the working class. The card was designed by John C Horsley.

Save All Saints

Friends of Grafham Church A Traditional Burns Night Supper

Grafham Village Hall Friday 25th January 2008
at 8 pm

Banish the January blues to the skirl of the bagpipes. Hear the lilt of Burns' words. See the haggis skewered by a Sgian Dubh. Applaud the toasts, clap with the piper. Scot or not, enjoy all the traditions of a Burns Night



The poetry
The toasts
The music
A 3-course
supper
The fun
The laughter

A professional piper throughout the evening

Where else could you get all this for only £10?
So bring a party

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GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL
SAT 15TH DECEMBER 7.30PM
Tickets £5 tel. 01480 810867

Bring your own drinks & glasses

Grafham Social Committee invites
you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents
10.30am on Wednesday December 12th with
Pat Watson at 10 Field Close.



During October, November and December a selection of **Fair Trade produce**, gifts, Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars etc will be on sale after services at: ALL SAINTS CHURCH - GRAFHAM Come and buy fruit for Christmas puddings, cakes and gifts for family and friends.



Goods supplied by Just Sharing of St Ives and sold on their behalf

The members of **Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group** wish

everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Join us on the first and second Sunday of the month to carry out woodland conservation. Please talk to **Sam Malt** for more details about the group **810844**(daytime) **811654**(evening)



Ellington and Grafham W.I.

Join the growing team! We meet on the first Tuesday in the month for interesting talks, lively discussions, social evenings and outings in amicable company. For details ring Sue Rice **896139** or Ann Davies **891372**



**Grafham Bookworms
Social, Film and
Debate Club**



For information/details of future meetings, please call Tina (811366)

Babysitters Olivia Sinfield Grade B GCSE Child Development -17yrs Tel 811831

Jessica Homewood-babysitting course- 16yrs Tel 810867

Kate Kelley -babysitting course -15yrs Tel 812179

Kirsty Elliot -babysitting course - 15yrs Tel 810550

Felicity Jenkinson - Grade B GCSE Child Development - 17yrs Tel 812328

Danielle Meyer - speaks French, can help with homework - 16yrs Tel 811279

Anna Fozzard- 15yrs Tel 812021



Grafham Church Flower Club

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8pm we meet in the village hall. For details call Karenza 812556 or Jill 810157.



GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL has a

Public Entertainments Licence for music, dancing, performing arts and can accommodate 92 guests seated in rows or 150 at a dance/disco - **an ideal venue for children's and family parties.** There is a playing field for sports activities and the hall has small changing rooms with shower facilities. **For more details** including hire charges or to book the hall **contact Pat or Alan Watson 01480 81166**

District Councillors **Peter Downes** and **Patricia Jordan** are at the village hall 11.15 to 11.45 on the first Saturday of the month. At other times contact: **Peter.Downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk** tel **01480 398082** and **Patricia.Jordan@huntsdc.gov.uk**

Web site: www.grafhamvillage.org.uk **E-mail:** gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

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I am trained and qualified in aromatherapy massage; I use a short consultation to choose oils to suit the person's needs at the time.

You can choose from: Foot and hand massage £7
Shoulder, neck, back and arms £10
Both the above or whole body £15

Gift Vouchers now available for any of the treatments

Contact Carole Baber on 01480 810043 or 0776 666 2197

MORE FREE TO A GOOD HOME!

Thanks to the *Grafham Gossip* and all those nice people that phoned up in response to my last advert, wanting the stuff I needed to dispose of as I've got to move. Sorry I only had one car to give away, I hope the rest of you were not too disappointed. The **Flexa cabin bed** still remains available and I've now unearthed an **exercise bike, air hockey table** and a **sofa bed**.

This moving lark is a cross between archaeology and wading through treacle! More stuff next edition (probably).
Ian Campbell tel: **812959** email: **campbell.clan@tesco.net**

Freddy De'Ath 5 Mayfield Crescent Huntingdon PE29 1UH

tel **07834225191** email **freddy_death@hotmail.com**

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Deadline Dates

Grafham Gossip deadline dates for the next few months are midnight on the following Thursdays - we welcome articles earlier if you have them ready.

December 13th or sooner if possible,

January 17th, February 14th

Thank you for all your contributions! *Editors, Grafham Gossip*

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